

Applicant : Roland Busse
Appln. No. : 10/500,078
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REMARKS

Claims 20-79 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

The abstract has been objected to for containing legal phraseology and for containing more than 150 words. Applicant has amended the abstract to obviate these rejections. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the abstract is proper.

Claims 32, 52 and 72 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for not including antecedent basis for the term "each bridging element." Claims 32, 52 and 72 have been amended to depend from claims 28, 48 and 68, respectively, thereby providing antecedent basis for the term "each bridging element." Applicant submits that claim 32, 52 and 72 are now definite.

All pending claims have been rejected as being anticipated by or obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,655,317 to Steudler, Jr. et al. The Steudler, Jr. et al. '317 patent was filed on October 31, 2002. The present application has a foreign priority date of December 24, 2001. Applicant submits along with this response a certified translation of the priority document. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Steudler, Jr. et al. '317 patent is not prior art to the present application. Accordingly, all pending claims 20-79 are in condition for allowance.

All pending claims 20-79 are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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